

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-12 and 14-17 will be pending. By this amendment claim 13 has been canceled; and claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is appreciatively noted that claims 7 and 8 are allowed.

It is also appreciatively noted that claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

§112 Rejection of Claims 13 and 14

In Sections 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 13 has been canceled. The limitation included in claim 13 has been amended and incorporated into independent claim 9. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 9.

§102 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 15, and 16

In Section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Vicard (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,761). Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13

including the limitations in claim 9. Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that claims 1 and 9 should be allowable over Vicard. Since claims 2-3, 5, 6 and 10-12, 15, 16 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, claims 2-3, 5, 6, 10-12, 15, and 16 should also be allowable over Vicard.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 15, and 16 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 4 and 17

In Section 20 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Vicard in view of Charles *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,941,963; hereinafter referred to as "Charles").

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 1 and 9, and since claims 4 and 17 depend from claims 1 and 9, it is maintained that claims 4 and 17 should be allowable over Vicard. Further, since it is indicated in Section 21 of the Office Action that Charles discloses an external hard drive that communicates with a laptop over IEEE 1394, it is submitted that Charles fails to teach or suggest the subject matter disclosed in claims 1 and/or 9. Thus, it is maintained that claims 4 and 17 should also be allowable over Charles. Therefore, Vicard and Charles, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter disclosed in claims 4 and 17.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 4 and 17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is

respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-12 and 14-17 are respectfully solicited.

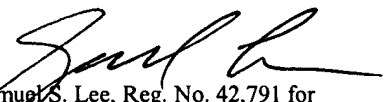
In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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